Indigenous status

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NCSDD

Knowledgebase ID: 000524   Version number: 2

Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT

Registration Authority: NCSIMG   Admin status: SUPERSEDED

Effective date: 02-SEP-03

Definition: An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which he or she lives.

Context: Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples occupy a unique place in Australian society and culture. In the current climate of reconiciliation, accurate and consistent statistics about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are needed in order to plan, promote and deliver essential services, to monitor changes in wellbeing and to account for government expenditure in this area.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric

Representational form: CODE

Representation layout: N

Minimum Size: 1

Maximum Size: 1

Data Domain:
1	Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin
2	Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin
3	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin
4	Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin
9	Not stated/inadequately described

Guide For Use: There are three components to the definition:
- descent;
- self-identification; and
- community acceptance.
The classification for 'Indigenous Status' has a hierarchical

structure comprising two levels. There are four categories at the detailed level of the classification which are grouped into two categories at the broad level. There is one supplementary category for 'not stated' responses. The classification is as follows:
Indigenous
- Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander Origin
- Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal Origin
- Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Origin
Non-indigenous
     - Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander Origin
     - Not stated/ inadequately described
This category is not to be available as a valid answer to the questions but is intended for use:
- primarily when importing data from other data collections that do not contain mappable data;
- where an answer was refused;
- where the question was not able to be asked prior to completion of assistance because the client was unable to communicate or a person who knows the client was not available.
Only in the last two situations may the tick boxes on the questionaire be left blank. Refer to ABS for advice in relation to the recording of indigenous status for children in receipt of children's services.
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- primarily when importing data from other data collections that do not contain mappable data;
- where the question was not able to be asked prior to completion of assistance because the client was unable to communicte or a person who knows the client was not available.
Only in the last two situations may the tick boxes on the questionnaire be left blank. Refer to ABS for advice in relation to the recording of indigenous status for children in receipt of children's services.

Collection Methods: The standard question for Indigenous Status is as follows:
 [Are you] [Is the person] [Is (name)] of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?
 (For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes.)
 No..
 Yes, Aboriginal...
 Yes, Torres Strait Islander.........................
This question is recommended for self-enumerated or interview-based collections. It can also be used in circumstances where a close relative, friend, or another member of the household is answering

on behalf of the subject.

When someone is not present, the person answering for them should be in a position to do so, i.e. this person must know the person about whom the question is being asked well and feel confident to provide accurate information about them. However, it is strongly recommended that this question be asked directly wherever possible.

This question should always be asked even if the person does not 'look' Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

The Indigenous Status question allows for more than one response. The procedure for coding multiple responses is as follows:

If the respondent marks 'No' and either 'Aboriginal' or 'Torres Strait Islander', then the response should be coded to either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander as indicated (i.e. disregard the 'No' response).

If the respondent marks both the 'Aboriginal and 'Torres Strait Islander' boxes then their response should be coded to 'Both Aboriginal' and ' Torres Strait Islander Origin'.

If the respondent marks all three boxes ('No', 'Aboriginal' and ' Torres Strait Islander'), then the response should be coded to 'Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Origin' (I.e. disregard the 'No' response).

Related metadata: supersedes previous data element Indigenous status version 1
has been superseded by Int. NCSDD & NHDD Indigenous status version 5

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity, ABS Catalogue Number. 1289.0, November 1999. Canberra: AGPS.

Source Organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Comments: A person who applies for Abstudy simply has to identify himself or herself as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander when claiming payment. Only where his or her indigenous status has been challenged will he or she be required to produce a certified letter of acceptance from a nominated member of an Aboriginal community to establish eligibility.

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NCSIM   Social-cultural characteristic

Data Agreements which include this Data Element